



**Student Visa and U.S. Higher Education**  
A U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad Face book Chat, held on  
June 7th, 2013 from 03:00pm – 04:00pm  
**Facebook Chat Transcript**

**Student:** Hai sir..

**My visa interview is about 10days ahead  
i have a savings of 28lakhs(50,000 USD)  
and my tuition and living cost in I-20 is 21,000 USD/yr(12 lakhs)  
so is my savings sufficient for showing the visa officer that i have more than enough funds  
for my two years masters or else should i apply for any education loan??**

**U.S. Vice Consul:** You need to demonstrate to the officer that you can afford to pay for the first year of your education and residence in the United States. It's up to you how you want to do that. Be prepared to show financial evidence that you or your parents who are sponsoring you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study.

**Student:** Hi sir.... My friend has done his degree from ignou( Indira Gandhi national open university) in major maths. He wants to continue his further studies in masters in US. He is 10+2+3 years of studies. Can he write gre and tofel and appear for visa interview? Is there any rule that only btech students should masters in US? Please reply sir..... Waiting for your reply.....

**U.S. Vice Consul:** The GRE are TOEFL are not required to apply for a US student visa, however many universities do require these and other tests for admission. We look at the totality of a student's profile during their interview, so you should be prepared to talk about your academic past in India and future plans. A number of educational advising resources are available to you, such as the United States India Educational Foundation ([www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in)), the UNITI Foundation ([www.unitifoundation.org](http://www.unitifoundation.org)), and at the Osmania University Centre for International Programs (<http://www.osmania.ac.in/oucip/>). We encourage students to use these resources to ensure that they are enrolling in registered and accredited programs that are appropriate for their means and needs. Finally, students from any discipline may apply to U.S. universities, not just BTECH.

**Student:** i am applying for tourist visa next week as my daughter got her f1visa for this fall. do I need to get a sponsor from my relatives who r in us now or I can directly apply for the visa as I want to drop her and come back.

**U.S. Vice Consul:** There is no sponsorship needed from the U.S. to apply for a visitors visa.

**Student:** Hello...I have 2 queries about filling the DS-160 form...

1) I have more than one sponsor, but the form doesn't accept multiple names. What should I do? 2) My I-20 mentions 36 months (3 years) as normal length of study. But I have been advised to fill in as 2 years in the "Intended length of stay" . Is it correct?

**U.S. Vice Consul:** I believe where you say sponsor, the question is actually about your contact in the U.S. A good person to list here is someone from the school, such as the Foreign Student Advisor. Another choice might be a family member, if you are going to live with them. You should answer the question about intended length of stay with the truthful answer -- how long do you plan to spend in your studies?

**Student:** sir i have one question that the funding for studies should b from only father r mother...? if from grandfathers fuding.. i here that there will b a rejection..!! is it right please clarify my doubt thanku sir

**U.S. Vice Consul:** It needs to be from a credible source -- that is, one that the consular officer believes will, in fact, pay for your education. Your next door neighbor with a family of his own would likely not be a credible source. Your grandfather might, depending on his circumstances.

**Student:** hello sir/madam i got rejected f-1 visa 3 times.from then i improved my profile by writing IELTS as VO said to me. now i have work experience too. still what i have to gain before going to visa to be approved

**U.S. Vice Consul:** Consular officers look at the totality of a student's situation during their interview to assess whether they meet the qualifications for a visa class. You should be prepared to talk about your academic past in India and future plans to prove you are a credible, qualified student.

An applicant for a student visa (F-1 or M-1) must demonstrate the following:

- Acceptance at a school.
- Possession of sufficient funds.
- Minimum preparation for course of study.
- Present intent to leave the United States at conclusion of studies.

You should be prepared to talk about what has changed in your situation since your last applications.

**Student:** Hi sir good afternoon.. i have a question.. that students with education loan r only getting f1 visa at hyd is this true if so way

**U.S. Vice Consul:** Not sure exactly what your question is asking. If you are questioning whether you need to have a student loan to be approved for a visa, the answer is "No". You need to show sufficient financial resources to pay for the entire first year of your program and demonstrate an income source for subsequent years.

**Student:** Sir, in the DS-160, "work, education and training section, kindly clarify what "educational institutions at a secondary level" mean exactly? I have studied all my life in India and have two masters degrees. I have now entered details of my bachelors and masters degrees only. Do I have to also provide details of my Class tenth & intermediate education ( +2) also?

**U.S. Vice Consul:** You need to enter from what would be considered high school on in the U.S. That would be from approximately tenth standard on.

**Student:** Sir, Will the fact that an applicant may not be employed for some months before applying for a student VISA to pursue a PhD in US, weigh against him? If so, can you share the reason, how such circumstance could be construed a reason for student visa denial?

**U.S. Vice Consul:** A consular officer evaluates the totality of a student's academic credibility. Students should expect to be asked questions about all aspects of their academic history and future plans. In addition, you must show the financial resources to pay for your course of study.

**Student:** Hello Sir/Madam,

**Here is my situation:**

I left USA on Feb 11,2013 for medical reason. On may 3 my visa was cancelled by the CBP officer at chicago ohare airport for possessing an inactive I-20. However, my SEVIS has been activated later on and I appeared for visa on May 28( same school and same SEVIS number) and got a 221g letter. My application is currently under administrative processing. If my application is not processed before july 11, I would be out of USA for 5 months. My question to you is: will my SEVIS be terminated for being out of USA for more than 5 months or will it still be active?. If it is gonna be terminated what should I do to keep it active?. Any information regarding this would be very much helpful.

**U.S. Vice Consul:** It is not possible to provide a definitive answer to your question. There are too many variables. It is not only an issue of how long you were out of the U.S., it is an issue of how long since you were enrolled in a program of study. Do you have a new I-20 from your school? You obviously cannot go back and finish classes this semester, so what is the start date on that new I-20? You cannot enter the U.S. until within 30 days of the start date on the I-20. If your SEVIS becomes inactive, you need to contact your school and work with them on getting it reactivated.

**Student:** Hi Sir, I had a question regarding travel on an F1 visa. I had received my visa stamped with a validity of 5 years on June 3 after administrative processing. The college joining date has passed and I might be deferred to the the same course next year. My question is whether I would be required to apply for a visa next year for the same college with a new I 20. Also If I were to join the college this year itself in a different batch, are there any documents I would need to carry while traveling as the I-20 I had produced at the time of the interview has expired?

**U.S. Vice Consul:** You will, at a minimum, need a new I-20 with a valid program start date. If your student visa is less than five months old, and the SEVIS number, program and university has not changed, you should be able to travel to the U.S. on the current visa. If the SEVIS number, program or university has changed, you must apply for a new visa.

**Student:** Is it possible for a student with an aggregate of 5.5 to get a US student visa??

**U.S. Vice Consul:** Academic scores are just a few aspects of a student visa application. Consular officers look at the totality of a student's situation during their interview to assess whether they meet the qualifications for a visa class. You should be prepared to talk about your academic past in India and future plans to prove you are a credible, qualified student.

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**Student:** Hi. I'm applying for a F1 VISA but unfortunately I lost my GRE and TOEFL score cards. But I do have a photocopy of the same. Is it fine if I use them for the visa interview?

**U.S. Vice Consul:** US Vice Consul Consular officers look at the totality of a student's situation during their interview to assess whether they meet the qualifications for a visa class. You should be prepared to talk about your academic past in India and future plans to prove you are a credible, qualified student.

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- Possession of sufficient funds.
- Minimum preparation for course of study.
- Present intent to leave the United States at conclusion of studies.

Bring whatever documents you have that will support what you say -- the officer may or may not look at them, but it's good to have them with you.

**Student:** Will Work experience as Assistant Professor for 5 years effect visa? Like will they reject bcoz of my work experience?

Can any one clear my doubt please....

**U.S. Vice Consul:** If your question is on Work Visa eligibility then to learn about H-1B visas and how to apply, please go to <http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov/temporary-employment-help.html>.

**Student:** Hello Sir,

I attended the visa interview at the Hyderabad consulate on 8th May 2013 for my H1B approval and was given a 221g white slip for administrative processing. My case number is 2013126 287 0001. As of today, my case is still under process in the CEAC website.

It has been 4 weeks since I attended the interview and I informed my employer in the U.S. about the delay and requested for a leave extension. Unfortunately, there has been a work emergency and I am required to be at work ASAP. I am worried about losing my job if there is any further delay in getting back to work. While I understand the background check/administrative processing is a mandatory process and imposed for our own safety, I wish there was a way to speed it up without putting our jobs at risk. Under the current circumstances and an extremely competitive job market, it is difficult to find and retain a job and such delays imposed on us put our hard earned careers at risk. ...

**U.S. Vice Consul:** We are required to conduct administrative processing in many cases. Unfortunately, as each case is unique, we cannot give a specific date by which processing will be completed. While we recognize how frustrating these delays can be for applicants, please be assured we process each case as quickly as possible. Please continue to check your case status online and wait until you are notified on the update. For specific queries please write to [support-india@ustraveldocs.com](mailto:support-india@ustraveldocs.com).

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